

Missouri Options 101

Practical Advice for New Teachers

Itinerary:

- ▣ Why We Do What We Do...
- ▣ One Size Does Not Fit All...
- ▣ Getting Started...
- ▣ So Now What?...
- ▣ Program Styles...
- ▣ Procedures...
- ▣ Timelines...
- ▣ Test Site Ins & Outs...
- ▣ "The Other 15 Hours"...
- ▣ Teacher Resources...
- ▣ Celebrate Success...

Why We Do What We Do...

- ▣ **"Upon the education of the people of this country the fate of this country depends."**
—Benjamin Disraeli
- ▣ According to the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research:
 - Annual Median Earnings in 2002:
 - ▣ Over 25 without a High School Diploma or GED: \$15,334
 - ▣ Over 25 with a High School Diploma or GED: \$29,294
 - In 2002:
 - ▣ 75% of all Missouri students graduated
 - ▣ 58% of all African-American students graduated
 - ▣ 63% of all Latino students graduated
 - ▣ 78% of all White students graduated

Missouri Options – One of Many Alternatives...

- ▣ In education, one size does not fit all!
- ▣ Find the fit...
 - MOP is not the answer for every at-risk student, but it IS a great safety net for some students...

Getting Started...

- ▣ Educate your district on the program.
- ▣ Pre-test candidates thoroughly.
- ▣ Go beyond the paper...

So Now What...

- ▣ Be prepared to wear many hats...
 - Teacher
 - Coach
 - Counselor
 - Advocate
 - Customer Service
- ▣ Learn your district's policies and expectations.
 - Graduation Policies
 - Admittance and Exit Policies
 - Home School Event Policies

Program Styles

- ❑ Paper/Pencil – Winfield School District
 - Make sure you stock your room with current GED prep books and materials
 - ❑ Steck-Vaughn
 - ❑ McGraw-Hill
- ❑ Computer-based – Parkway School District (last year)
 - GED Online (through Rockwood)
- ❑ Hybrid– Parkway School District (this year)

Procedures...

- ❑ How will you run your day?
 - Tracking attendance hours
 - Developing a master schedule
 - Tracking work/volunteer/"other" hours
 - Building in enrichment activities
- ❑ What will your thresholds be?
 - Missed Class Hours
 - Missed Work Hours
 - Overall Eligibility in Program

Timelines...

- ❑ Student Entry
 - Typically at the start of a semester (Fall, Spring, Summer)
 - Certain circumstances cause this to vary (Ex.: 5th year Seniors)
- ❑ GED Testing
 - Benchmarks:
 - ❑ 1st test – late October to early November
 - ❑ 2nd test – March (allow enough time for students to participate in graduation activities)
 - ❑ 3rd test – July (Summer Missouri Options)

Test Site Ins & Outs

- ❑ Where will your kids take the test?
 - Research nearby testing sites and learn their practices.
 - ❑ Ex.: Harris-Stowe vs. SLU
 - Become friendly with the coordinator!!
- ❑ What type of tests are offered?
 - One day vs. two day tests.
 - ❑ Pluses and minuses for both...
- ❑ How do students get accommodations?
 - If a student has an IEP, he/she may qualify for accommodations.
 - It is a LENGTHY paperwork process, and they should be filed very early.
 - Make sure your test site is clear about your student's accommodations!

"The Other 15 Hours"...

- ❑ It can look very different...
 - Part-time jobs
 - Volunteer hours
 - Elective classes
 - Service learning
 - Internships
- ❑ Be Practical...
 - You want to be able to manage this...Be wary of taking on too much too soon!
- ❑ Consult your administration...
 - What are **they** comfortable with?
- ❑ Think through your resources...
 - What businesses and/or non-profits operate in your area?
 - Could you partner with them?

Teacher Resources...

- ❑ Your Administration
 - They are your 1st line of support!
- ❑ State of MO Contacts
 - Shawn Brice & Bill Poteet - Keep their email addresses handy! 😊
- ❑ Test Site Coordinators
 - As mentioned, you want to be on their good side. It will help when deadlines are tight, or something unforeseen happens!

Celebrate Success...

- Celebrate achievements, and honor & acknowledge your kids...
 - Know your kids' birthdays and **DO SOMETHING!**
 - When students get a job or pass a test, **PARTY!**
 - Acknowledge diversity: **GET TO KNOW YOUR KIDS AND CELEBRATE WHO THEY ARE!!**
- Find ways to add to the experience...
 - Field Trips
 - Career or Educational Research
 - Mock Interviews
 - Job Shadowing

Questions??

- What questions do you have?...